

SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT

OR

BOROUGH OF SUDBURY,



IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1919

Population (Census 1911) 7,141. Estimated, end of 1919, 7,110 (from particulars of Food Control. Average, 1,925. Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,792. Average number of persons per house, 4.0.

Physical site, Valley of the Stour, in the upper chalk formation covered with drift sands, gravels and brick earth, derived from the boulder clay of general plateau.

Chief Employment of population is Silk Weaving, Mat Making and Corset Making.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following Vital Statistics are compiled from the returns received from the Registrar General and the District Registrar.

BIRTHS.

There were 108 births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth rate of 15.1 per thousand of the population. The births and birth rates in the Borough during the last eight years were :—

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Births.....	129	129	126	102	111	85	94	108
Birth rate ...	18.0	18.0	17.5	14.2	15.1	14.1	13.6	15.1

Birth rate for England and Wales, 18.5.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was 160, to which must be added 7 deaths of residents not registered in the district, making a total of 167. From this have to be deducted 40 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the Workhouse and St. Leonard's Hospital, making the nett deaths 127, equivalent to a death rate of 18.6 per thousand. The deaths and death rates during the last eight years were :—

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Deaths registered.....	144	129	141	163	126	99	143	160
Deaths belonging to the District	104	75	111	134	105	74	100	127
Death rate... ..	14.5	10.4	15.3	18.5	14.5	12.3	14.5	18.6

Death rate for England and Wales, 13.8.

The following table shows the relative age mortality among residents :—

Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	Over 65 years.
6	6	7	4	8	19	27	50

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths registered of children under one year of age number 6. Among these, 3 were due to premature birth, 2 were due to broncho pneumonia, and 1 to convulsions. The Infant Mortality for the last eight years was :—

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Deaths of children under 1 year..	9	5	9	19	10	3	6	6
Rate per 1000 of births registered	69.7	39.0	71.4	186.2	90.0	35.3	64.0	55.5

Infant Mortality for England and Wales, 89.

GENERAL MORTALITY.

Among the deaths registered were 22 from Influenza, 11 from Bronchitis, 10 from Phthisis, 17 from Heart Disease, 10 from Cerebral Hæmorrhage and 11 from Cancer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied entirely from the Waterworks. The water has been pure and ample in quantity. The supply was intermittent. During the hours from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., there was a plentiful supply. The fact that the water was turned off during the night was inconvenient in the case of any medical or nursing emergency.

Average daily consumption per head, 17 gallons. This includes the supply for trade purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Water carriage system throughout.

With the exception of 6 houses, all the town is connected with the town sewer. These 6 houses are now being connected. The sewerage is collected into tanks at the Sewerage Station, from whence it is pumped up to the contact beds by steam power supplied by the Refuse Destructor. One contact bed was re-constructed during the year. A fair standard of effluent has been maintained.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Water closets are entirely used, but there are many places where two or more houses use one water closet. There are still many closets without flushing cisterns.

HOUSE REFUSE.

This is collected and dealt with in the Refuse Destructor; 1,411 loads disposed of during year.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following is a statement of the number of notices, inspections, &c., made during the year :

Number of written notices sent out respecting defects and nuisances	...	65
Additional premises provided with Town water	... ..	7
Additional closets provided with flushing cisterns	... ..	20
Number of houses and premises connected with the sewers or re-drained		7
Number of new houses completed	... ..	—
Number of houses disinfected	... ..	35
Number of schools disinfected	.. ..	—
Number of nuisances abated	... ..	46
Number of slaughter-house inspections (made monthly)	... ..	18
Number of dairies' and cowsheds' inspections (made monthly)	... ..	18
Number of pigstyes inspected	... ..	12
Number of bakehouses inspected	.. ..	11
Number of cases of overcrowding abated	... ..	1

The systematic and general inspections, as well as the sanitary work of the Borough, have been carried out by W. I. Tait, Borough Engineer.

LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one in the Town. This has been visited at intervals. No breach of the regulations has been found.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have undergone inspection, and all have sufficient sanitary accommodation. One silk factory has been enlarged; one artificial silk factory established. One complaint received from H.M. Inspector of Factories: matter put right.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are now none in the Town.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Elementary Schools, all in good sanitary condition with Town water supply. The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases is: (1) In the case of Scarlet Fever, to exclude all children from infected house for one week after isolation of case and disinfection of house; (2) In the case of Measles, to exclude from school, children of the house who have not previously had measles.

The Medical Inspection of children is under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There is ample milk supply in the Town, of a good quality.

Epidemic Infantile Diarrhoea is of rare occurrence.

The dairies and cow sheds are kept in fair order.

The Model Regulations made in August, 1906, are in force.

Milk (mothers' and children's) Order, 1918. No action taken by local authority under this order.

Local Food Committee issued Priority Certificates when applied for.

BAKE HOUSES.

There are fifteen bakehouses in the Town. No breaches of regulations were found when visited. There are no underground bakehouses in the Town.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are ten slaughter houses in the Borough. These are inspected frequently and the premises are found to be kept in a sanitary condition.

A Public Abattoir is desirable to make the inspection of meat easier.

Two carcasses condemned.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No action was required under this Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following diseases have been notified during the year :—

- (1) Scarlet Fever, twelve cases—all probably arose from one case, a “return case.”
- (2) Diphtheria, three cases—sporadic, no cause found.
- (3) Measles, three cases notified.
- (4) Puerperal Fever, one case—the patient died.
- (5) Erysipelas, three cases arose in hospital. Hospital closed and disinfected throughout.
- (6) Pneumonia, seven cases during influenza epidemic.

Malaria, twelve cases } all returned soldiers except one case of malaria, which arose out-
Dysentery, two „ } side this area.

Encephalitis Lethargica, one case—imported from outlying area to local hospital.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is held in readiness by me and is used promptly.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are provided by the West Suffolk County Council. These are not used to any great extent.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been a few cases of Whooping Cough. Nothing remarkable outstanding. Intimation of diseases is promptly received from the Heads of schools.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

The order making Influenza notifiable came after the epidemic had abated.

The number of deaths from Influenza was 22.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PULMONARY. Eighteen new cases notified this year. Of these three died during year; seven other deaths occurred amongst those previously notified.

OTHER FORMS of this disease notified were :—two cases Meningitis, both died; two cases of Glandular Infection; one case of Infection of Pleura; one case of Hip Disease, and one case of Disease of Spine.

THE TREATMENT of Tuberculosis is under the control of the West Suffolk County Council.

The cases notified are reported at once to the Tuberculosis Officer.

The action taken by the local authority is :—

- (1) Inspection of house and sanitation, and where found defective, the matter is attended to.
- (2) Disinfection of house (a) after removal of case to sanatorium, (b) after death.

The County scheme includes provision of limited Sanatorium treatment and domiciliary treatment with periodic visits of Health Visitor and Tuberculosis Officer.

The provision of Sanatorium treatment is inadequate, and needs urgent attention. There is great need for some provision for the isolation of advanced cases. In one case where a patient in an advanced condition was sent home, a case of Tubercular Hip Disease arose in the house soon after.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

This is under the control of the West Suffolk County Council.

Free treatment is provided at the following centres :—

- (1) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
- (2) East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.
- (3) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (4) Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

The disease is not very prevalent, and the provision made is adequate.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This is also under the County Council. A Welfare Centre is established in the Town, and there is a fair attendance.

One case of Puerperal Fever occurred, the first case notified for years.

No case of Ophthalmic Neonatorum occurred during the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF. One Sanitary Inspector.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. Small isolation hospital available with two wards. A Nurse is obtained when necessary. Hospital has been open since October for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Some cases earlier in the year were sent to Colchester Fever Hospital. There is need for another ward in the hospital and better provision for staff. This is under consideration.

LOCAL ACTS. None.

ADOPTIVE ACTS in force. None.

The arrangements for chemical and bacteriological work are under the control of the West Suffolk County Council.

HOUSING.

HOUSES.

Total number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1792
Number for working classes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1617
New houses erected during 1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

POPULATION.

Census, 1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7141
Estimated, 1919 (from Food Control particulars)	7110

SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.

Estimated	20
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This will disappear as Council's Housing Scheme is completed.

OVERCROWDING.

There are no very serious cases of overcrowding. Those which have been discovered during the year have been corrected by families moving to larger houses.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (1) (a) General standard of housing in the district is a fair one except in two or three areas.
(b) The defects outstanding in the areas where the standard is not good are
 - (a) Building of a poor type.
 - (b) Insufficient ventilation.
 - (c) Insufficient air space around the houses.
 - (d) Insufficient closet accommodation.
- (2) Action taken under the Housing Acts as regards unfit houses:—32 houses have been repaired during year, and 6 are under repair.
- (3) The difficulties in remedying unfitness are
 - (a) Shortage of available houses for people to live in if closing orders are made.
 - (b) Shortage of labour.
 - (c) Shortage of material.
- (4) (a) Every house has its own water supply from the town main.
(b) The closet accommodation in many instances is insufficient. This is only the case in the older houses. Two hundred and twenty three houses have only one hundred and two closets.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No action has been taken during the year as regards unhealthy areas.

BY-LAWS.

There are no by-laws relating to houses. There is great need for such by-laws if the condition of the town is to be improved.

APPENDIX.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made by householders ... none
- (2) Action under Housing Act, 1909:
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected under Section 17 ... 106
 - (b) " " " which were considered unfit for human habitation ... none
 - (c) " " " the defects in which were remedied without making closing orders ... 32
- (3) Action under Section 28 of Housing Act, 1919 ... none
- (4) Closing orders:
 - (a) Number of representations made to local authority with a view to making closing orders ... "
 - (b) Number of closing orders made ... "
 - (c) " " dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined, on the houses being made fit for human habitation ... "
- (5) Demolition orders made ... "
- (6) Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily ... "
- (7) Staff engaged in housing work is one Housing Officer.

R. W. RIX, M.B., F.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.